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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6508

INFO RUCNOSC/ORG FOR SECURITY CO OP IN EUR COLLECTIVE

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 USOSCE 000172

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE FOR VCI/CCA, VCI/NRRC, EUR/RPM, EUR/PRA, EUR/CARC,
SCA/CEN, SCA/RA, PM/WRA, ISN/CPI

JCS FOR J-5

OSD FOR ISA (KEHL, WALLENDER)

NSC FOR NILSSON, HAYDEN

USUN FOR LEGAL, POL

EUCOM FOR J-5

CENTCOM FOR J-5

UNVIE FOR AC

GENEVA FOR CD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PARM PREL KCFE OSCE RS XG

SUBJECT: OSCE/FSC: JULY 22 RUSSIAN "LESSONS LEARNED FROM AUGUST 2008"; 1540 BEST PRACTICE GUIDE GOES FORWARD

¶1. (SBU) Summary: At the final plenary before the summer break of the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), Russia made a lengthy statement outlining the lessons learned from the August 2008 war in Georgia. While Russia made what it considered to be a strong case that Georgian President Saakashvili bears the brunt of responsibility for what happened, the EU and NATO also received criticism. Russia also urged Georgia to sign non-use of force agreements with the proxy regimes and plugged its proposal for a new European Security Treaty. In response, Georgia, the EU, Greek CIO, and the U.S. commented on Russia's analysis along familiar lines. The EU and the United States again called on Russia to respect the August 12 and September 8 agreements, urged access to the separatist regions, and reiterated their support for Georgia's territorial integrity.

¶2. (SBU) Meanwhile, the U.S. distributed the UNSCR 1540 Best Practice Guide (BPG) on Export Controls and Transshipments for final review, and requested the draft decision welcoming the guide be placed on the September agenda for action. Russia underscored its support for the BPG as distributed by the U.S. Assuming adoption in September as now appears likely, this will represent the fruit of two years of effort.

The FSC fall session will begin on September 9 under UK Chairmanship. End Summary.

Georgia Opened Fire on its own Territorial Integrity

¶3. (SBU) The July 22 Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) final plenary of the summer session was dominated by the planned Russian intervention on "lessons learned from August 2008." (FSC.DEL/146/09). The politically sensitive nature of the meeting resulted in attendance by both the OSCE Secretary

General and the Greek Ambassador in her capacity as the Chairman in Office of the OSCE.

¶4. (SBU) As broadcast to most delegations last week, Russian rep (Ulyanov) delivered a lengthy statement outlining the lessons learned from August 2008 events in Georgia. He pre-announced the presentation to give all delegations ample time to prepare. He said he was under instruction to raise these items on the eve of the one-year anniversary of Georgia's attacks on the Russian peacekeepers, rather than waiting until September after the fact. Ulyanov claimed that Russia was not trying to upset the FSC Chair (Georgia) during its last meeting, but it was just a matter of timing.

¶5. (SBU) Ulyanov began by asserting the peaceful settlements in the Transcaucasus area were trampled by Georgian President Saakashvili. Russia has found evidence dating from 2006 when relevant secret planning began to seize the Tskhinvali region. Georgia's actions were pre-meditated and used indiscriminant force when firing upon the Russian peacekeeping forces. Georgia alleges that its actions were accidental in nature, but they were not. They were planFt.)Q.b7